

COUNTRY

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25X1A

TOPIC

General Military Information

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1. On 7 October 1951, the unit from Prenzlau in the Templin (N 54/U 81) training area was ordered to destroy all documents which were not to be taken along to the home station. The documents were subsequently burnt by Soviet personnel, and the orderly rooms and quarters were subsequently inspected by several majors. On 8 October, the order arrived for the unit to depart to the winter quarters. However, officers were overheard to say that only a small percentage of the troops would go directly to Prenzlau, whereas most of the troops would attend field exercises on the Elbe River until 28 October. Three or 4 officers and a corresponding number of enlisted personnel were to remain in the summer camp of the unit with 25X1C. This unit was commanded by Colonel Shepel, (fnu), and included 11 Russian women, some of whom wore uniforms with red-bordered black epaulets and tank insignia. These women recently arrived and were assigned to work in orderly rooms, messhalls and kitchens. (1)
2. About 1,600 troops with materiel arrived at Rathenow (N 53/Z 15) for Unit 25X1C in Wald Kaserne II from Altengrabow on 15, 16 and 18 October. The materiel included 52 x 122-mm field howitzers, 14 x 122-mm AT guns, 1 sedan, 88 trucks 25X1C, 65 caterpillar tractors, 5 trailers, 10 boxcar loads of lumber and 19 boxcar loads of ammunition. The ammunition was hauled to the former ration supply depot. (2)
3. At noon on 16 October, about 30 officers, who wore red-bordered black epaulets, including some with artillery or tank insignia, arrived at the Wittenberge (N 53/Y 79) railroad station on trucks (3) 25X1C
4. Major Yakushin (fnu), supply officer of the 100-mm AT artillery regiment in the Weisse Stadt settlement at Oranienburg (N 53/Z 67) was sentenced to 10 days of confinement by the military post commandant because he had been apprehended in an off-limits restaurant by a military police patrol. When talking to this major on 23 October, Rocket Launcher Regiment Chesnakov was re-assigned to the Schoenwalde (N 53/Z 66) military post. (4) Armored reconnaissance cars with the white marking ① on the left side of 25X1C the hood were identified at the Oranienburg castle on 20 October. Fifteen tanks, including 12 which were covered with canvas, were seen in the former concentration camp on 22 October. Three of the tanks bore the 25X1C following white marking: ② (5)

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5. On 23 October, the western section of the Kavallerieschule, Kramnitz ("53/2 64") quartered about 1,500 troops, while the eastern section was still occupied by only a guard detail. On 22 October, three soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with signal insignia were seen rolling up telephone wires in front of the barracks installation. T-34/85 tank [REDACTED] left the installation toward Doeberitz. Vehicles observed at the Kavallerieschule on 23 October [REDACTED]

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Comments.

- (1) Incoming rail shipments at Bad Freienwalde indicate that the troops at the Templin troop training grounds started departing for their home stations about 20 October 1951. [REDACTED] A column of the 25th Tank Div was observed south of Kyritz on 19 October, and an artillery component of the division was loaded in Gross Behnitz southwest of Nauen, on 24 October 1951. [REDACTED] Colonel Shepel (fnu), mentioned in the present report, is known from a document of May 1951 as the commanding officer of the 175th Tank Regt of the 25th Tank Div.

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- (2) Another source previously reported that components of the 6th Arty Div returned to Rathenow between 16 and 18 October 1951. Troops with 58 artillery pieces were seen moving into Wald Kaserne I at that time. See [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] mentioned in the present report, is probably assigned to an artillery brigade of the 6th Arty Div in Rathenow. 25X1C

25X1C (3)

Trucks of the 18th Mecz Div [REDACTED], probably of the Third Shock Army.

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- (4) Major Yakushin (fnu) was identified by [REDACTED] supply officer of an artillery regiment in the Meisse Stadt settlement. Lieutenant Colonel or Colonel Chesnakov (fnu) was last identified by the same source as the commanding officer of the unidentified rocket launcher regiment of the Second Gds Mecz Army. The regiment departed for an undetermined destination about 20 October 1951. [REDACTED] 25X1A

- (5) The information is credible, because the troops in the Templin training area started departing on 20 October 1951. The tactical symbol of the tanks may be that of one of the tank regiments of the 25th Tank Div.

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- (6) [REDACTED] the installation to have been occupied in a similar manner at the beginning of September 1951. [REDACTED] 25X1A

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